

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

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SKETCHES

OF

LEGISLATORS

AND

STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

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BY JOHN CARDWELL.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS:  
DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN STEAM PRINT.  
1876.

## EIGHTH DISTRICT.

*Counties.*—Cherokee, Anderson and Henderson.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER C. FRANCIS is a Tennessean by birth, but was reared in Texas, coming to this State twenty-six years ago. He is forty-two years old, of commanding appearance, and being the possessor of a lovely wife and twelve interesting children deserves most honorable consideration on the part of his countrymen. Special privileges and immunities were granted in ancient Rome to such fathers, and why should not Texas, bidding for population, and valuing it so highly, respect the father of twelve living children even beyond other living men. Napoleon told the vain Madame De Stael, herself childless, that the greatest woman in all France was that one who had borne the most children and this rule, holding good for one parent, should also hold good for the other. It becomes the duty of Dr. Francis to institute laws

in favor of extra citizen rights to men and women of Texas who add like he has to its population.

But to write more particularly of Dr. Francis. He is a resident of Rusk, Texas, where he has lived during his citizenship in the State. He graduated at the Nashville Medical University in 1859, since which time he has practiced his profession, except during the war, in the town of Rusk. At the breaking out of the war, he was appointed surgeon of the Third Texas Regiment of Cavalry, and afterwards went into active service with a commission as surgeon of the Tenth Texas Cavalry, which position he filled until in 1862, when he was made brigade surgeon. Ill health forced him, after the evacuation of Corinth, to resign his position, and, upon his recovery, he was appointed surgeon of the post at Tyler, in which position he served until the close of the war. Since the war he has devoted himself to the practice of medicine, and by his skill, his uniform gentlemanly deportment, his kind and genial disposition, he has won for himself the love of a whole community. He was President of the Examining Board of Surgeons for the Fifth

Congressional District, and is now President of the Examining Board of Physicians of Rusk county. In all his life's duties, Dr. Francis has been true and firm, and as a good citizen and Democrat he yields the palm to no one. He was nominated by the Democrats of his district, and elected without opposition. He has been placed at the head of the Senate Committee on State Asylums, and is a member of several other important committees.